



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



PIERRE NATIONAL GUARD UNIT RETURNS TO US FROM MIDDLE EAST

Sixty-nine soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard's 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion arrived in the United States Saturday, June 6, after serving on an 11-month deployment in the Middle East.

Members of the Pierre-based unit arrived at Fort Hood, Texas, where they will spend the next two weeks completing demobilization requirements before returning to South Dakota.

The 152nd CSSB deployed to provide multifunctional logistics and support operations for U.S. and coalition forces in the region.

Details of the unit's arrival to South Dakota and welcome home event will be announced at a later date once details are confirmed.

The deployment marks the end of the second mobilization for the 152nd CSSB since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The unit first deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2013.



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HEUER RECOGNIZED FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Teena Heuer, CNA and household coordinator at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home was recently recognized by MJFSVH Superintendent Brad Richardson for 30 years of service for the State of South Dakota.

Heuer started her state career with Youth Forestry Services, then joined the team at the Star Academy, and recently joined the SDDVA team in Hot Springs.

Please join us in recognizing Teena for her service to the state of South Dakota and for her commitment to improving the lives of others.



DAV/A&W ROOT BEER FLOAT DAY

DAV's partnership with A&W Restaurants has been renewed for another year. A&W has raised funds to support DAV's mission through their annual National Root Beer Float Day campaign.

Starting in early July, A&W restaurant locations nationwide will collect donations on DAV's behalf, culminating on August 6th when customers will receive a free root beer float at participating locations from 2:00—8:00 pm and will be invited to make a donation to DAV.

A&W locations in South Dakota are: Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Webster. DAV contacts for the respective locations are as follows: Tom Dolney, Gaylord Helmbrecht and Don Barrow.



COMMITTAL SERVICES RESUME AT BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY

Black Hills National Cemetery will resume committal services for families who are interring their loved ones on June 9.

“We are pleased to resume committal services and military funeral honors at Black Hills National Cemetery,” said Cemetery Director Terry Corkins. “We will also soon be contacting families who chose direct interments to schedule memorial services and military funeral honors, if desired. We appreciate the patience and understanding families have shown during the COVID-19 pandemic and are eager to begin returning to normal operations.”

Black Hills National Cemetery has remained open for interments and visitation throughout the pandemic. Unfortunately, as a matter of health and safety, the cemetery began deferring committal services and military funeral honors on March 23.

Families with interments scheduled on or after June 9 will be offered the option of a committal service at the time of interment. Military funeral honors, customarily provided by the Department of Defense and volunteer honor guards, will be based on local availability.

Black Hills National Cemetery continues to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In doing so, we will limit the number of individuals attending committal services, require all attendees to practice physical distancing between individuals not from the same household, ensure all attendees and employees wear face coverings, encourage frequent use of hand sanitizer and ask sick individuals to stay home.

In keeping with federal and South Dakota guidance; committal and memorial services at Black Hills National Cemetery will be limited to 10 family members and guests at the service. Cemetery employees, funeral home personnel and military honors providers will not count toward the family’s limit on attendees.

Families may continue to choose a direct interment without a service and opt for a memorial service later when all restrictions have been lifted.

Memorial services for Veterans and eligible family members who were interred without a committal service between March 23 and June 8 will commence in July. Cemetery representatives will be reaching out to these families in the coming weeks to discuss their options and schedule a memorial service, if desired. Families may also contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office or the cemetery directly to schedule a memorial service after June 29.

For more information, visit the [National Cemetery Administration \(NCA\)](#) website or contact Terry Corkins, Cemetery Director, at 605-347-3830. To make burial arrangements or schedule a memorial service at Black Hills National Cemetery or any VA national cemetery, contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (800) 535-1117.

NATIONAL CEMETERIES WILL RESUME COMMITTAL SERVICES STARTING JUNE 9

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemeteries will resume committal services on June 9 in all but two VA national cemeteries.

VA national cemeteries will contact families who were unable to hold a committal service due to the COVID-19 pandemic to arrange memorial services for their loved ones beginning in July.

Families with interments scheduled on or after June 9 will be offered the option of a committal service at the time of interment. At Calverton and Long Island national cemeteries, that option will be available starting June 22, provided state and local guidance permit. Military funeral honors, customarily provided by the Department of Defense and volunteer honor guards, will be based on local availability.

VA national cemeteries will continue adherence to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to prevent the spread of coronavirus by limiting the number of individuals attending committal services, practicing physical distancing between individuals not from the same household, ensuring all attendees and employees wear face coverings, encouraging frequent use of hand sanitizer, and asking sick individuals to stay home. The number of permitted attendees will vary based on state and local guidelines for gathering sizes provided the facility can accommodate increased attendees while maintaining physical distancing.

Families may continue to choose direct interment and opt for a memorial service at later date when all restrictions have been lifted.

Memorial services for veterans and eligible family members who were interred without a committal service between March 23 and June 8 will commence in July.

For more information, visit the NCA's website, <https://www.cem.va.gov>.



VA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

Important Update

ATTENTION: EMERGENCY TREATMENT PROVIDERS

Beginning June 8, 2020, the Office of Community Care (OCC) is requesting that all community hospitals and/or community providers notify Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of a Veteran who self-presents to an emergency department within 72 hours of the start of the episode of care. This notification should take place through one national location, the Community Care Centralized Call Center, which will be staffed and operated by OCC. Community hospitals and providers should use the following modalities to notify VA:

Email: VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov

Phone: 1-844-72HRVHA or (844-724-7842)

What needs to be supplied: Case Specific Information

Veteran Information	Treating Facility Information
Name	NPI
Social Security Number	Name
Date of Birth	Address
Address	Point of Contact (POC) Name
Date Presenting to Facility	POC Phone #
Date of Discharge	POC Email Address
Admitted? (YES/NO)	Note: POC will receive VA authorization decision info
Chief Complaint/Admission DX and/or Discharge DX	

Please continue to fax all **EMERGENT** medical records to: 612-725-1266

For questions pertaining to billing and/or claims processing, please see below:

CCN Provider Services Region 2: 1-844-839-6108

Payment Operations Management (POM) Claims Status Line: 1-877-881-7618

TriWest Claims Concerns: 1-855-722-2838

Thank you for your continued partnership in caring for our Veterans!

Respectfully,

Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, Care in the Community

Contact www.ProviderExperience@va.gov with questions.

Community Care Home page <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/index.asp>

"KEEPING THE PROMISE"



Sioux Falls Vet Center

3200 W. 49th Street

Sioux Falls, SD 57106

www.vetcenter.va.gov

Services Provided

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Marital and Family Counseling
- Medical referrals
- Assistance in applying for VA Benefits
- Employment Counseling, guidance and referral
- Alcohol/Drug Treatment referrals
- Information and referral to community resources
- Military Sexual Trauma
- Community Education

**VET CENTER
SERVICES ARE
FREE TO
ELIGIBLE
VETERANS
AND FAMILY
MEMBERS**

Sioux Falls Vet Center
605-330-4552

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605-330-4552

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\$20/RIDER | \$10/PASSENGER

FREE WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED

FLATLANDERS MILITIAMEN



**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE
VETERANS MEMORIAL IN MADISON
ALL VEHICLES WELCOME**

**DRAWING
RAFFLE
PRIZES**

\$300 | \$150 | \$75

POKER RUN

**VFW | MADISON, SD
SATURDAY | AUGUST 22ND**



9:30-10:30AM - REGISTRATION

11:00AM - RUN STARTS

4:00PM - LAST BIKE IN

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

PAUL REURINK 605-270-1790

BRIAN SIEMONSMA 605-366-4111

POKER RUN

June 27th, 2020



Sign up 11am-12pm at the Lake County Court House
in Madison, SD

Open To All Vehicles

**\$20.00 per hand - Proceeds to benefit
MIDWEST Honor Flight**

Let's help MIDWEST Honor Flight in effort to send our local
Veterans to Washington, DC to visit their War Memorials

Put on by



Partial proceeds MAY go to
help SD IMPAC



FIRST ANNUAL POST 42

POKER RUN

JULY 11-12, 2020

\$20 per hand | All Vehicles Welcome | Rain or Shine

Activities will be held at the Post 42 building, Main Street, Arlington

SATURDAY

- **POKER RUN** | Kickstands up at 10 am
Registration from 8:30-10 am
Awards given to oldest, youngest, & furthest rider
Proceeds go towards Post 42 building
- **SILENT AUCTION**
- **PORK FEED** | 6-8 pm
- **DANCE** | 7-11 pm
with live music from Highway Call

SUN

- **PANCAKE FEED** | 9:30-11 am
Free will donation
Bloody Mary Bar, provided by Post 42
- **FUN RUN**

CAMPsites AVAILABLE

Lake Arlington & City Campground
(605) 983-5251

MOTEL ROOMS AVAILABLE

Pheasant Motel
(605) 983-9927

Arlington Inn
(605) 983-4609

DONATED BY  ALLEGRA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 14—Flag Day

Jun 15—VABHHCS Veterans Live Town Hall—5:00 pm (MT) <https://www.facebook.com/VABlackHills/>

Jun 21—Fathers Day

Jul 6—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)

Jul 10—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Bldg. 145—Room 108—Fort Meade VAMC—10:00 am (MT)

Aug 24-27—SDDVA Annual Benefit School—Ramkota Conference Center—Pierre

Sep 3—Veterans Day at the SD State Fair

Sep 3-7—SD State Fair

Sep 11—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—VFW Post 1273—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)

Nov 13—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Domiciliary Auditorium—Hot Springs VAMC—10:00 am (MT)

Dec 1—Governor's State of the Budget Address—1:00 pm (CT)

Jan 12—Governor's State of the State Address—1:00 pm (CT)

Jan 13—SDDVA/SD Veterans Council Legislative Reception

The VA Black Hills is holding a Facebook Live Veteran Town Hall on Monday, June 15, at 5:00 p.m. (MT).

Like them on Facebook and join the town hall on June 15th at <https://www.facebook.com/VABlackHills/>

VABHHCS will be providing updates on how they will gradually begin reintroducing routine in-person services to veterans this month. Moving forward, providing safe care is their priority.

During the Town Hall anyone can type a question into the comments section.



Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer

South Dakota Department of the Military <http://military.sd.gov>

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

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